

For your peace of mind, our support vehicle is always available throughout each stage of the cycle tour. This gives us the opportunity to visit other points of interest around the areas on the tour. Or if we have any unfavourable weather conditions, bike hassles or flatties, or you just simply need to rest the legs for a little bit, then we can accommodate accordingly. Please refer to our [FAQs page](#) for more information.

## Day 1: Christchurch – Methven

- The Canterbury Cycle Trail tour gets underway as we head west across the plains towards the Torlesse Range and through the town of Darfield.
- After a stop for delicious morning tea we head over the Porters Pass for the first bike ride of the day along a glistening high country lake to Lake Coleridge Village.
- Relax with a picnic lunch before our second ride on a river terrace with stunning views over the Rakaia River. We then head across the Rakaia Gorge to the small Canterbury rural service town of Methven and settle into our lodge accommodation for the next two evenings.

**CYCLE DISTANCE: 40KM    MEALS: LUNCH / DINNER**

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## Day 2: Methven

- Today our first bike ride begins as we leave the highway and turn again towards the Southern Alps and cycle along the river terraces high above the Rakaia.
- Enjoy morning tea and maybe a bus transfer along a hilly section. We then ride along the flat river terrace past the Wilberforce and Mathias river confluence with the Rakaia, deep in the Canterbury High Country. Here the valleys become wide and sparse, with amazing views of the surrounding mountain ranges.
- For those wanting to put some more km's on the pedals there is the option of riding the transfer section.



- At the conclusion of the ride we head to the Rakaia Gorge and enjoy an exhilarating jet boat ride on the Rakaia River before heading back to Methven.

**CYCLE DISTANCE: 28-45KM    MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER**

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## **Day 3: Methven - Mt Somers**

- Today we enjoy some riding around the farmland of the fertile and productive Canterbury Plains, taking in the rural vistas. Morning tea is in a village on some of the most productive soils in the country.
- Enjoy lunch at a local café before taking a short walk through native beech forest to a waterfall
- We finish the riding today with a short ride through rolling farmland to our accommodation for the next two evenings at Mt Somers village.

**CYCLE DISTANCE: 56KM    MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER**

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## **Day 4: Mt Somers**

- Today we drive up through the Ashburton Gorge to Hakatere, then on the bikes to ride past picturesque lakes and remnants of ancient glaciers to the largest of these at Lake Heron, sitting at 700m above sea level and a key habitat for the endangered Crested Grebe.
- We call into a High Country Station for morning tea, with the option of taking a scenic flight into the upper Rakaia and Rangitata valleys.
- We transfer to Lake Clearwater for a picturesque lunch and then on to Mt Sunday. From here you have the opportunity to do an [unguided] walk up Mt Sunday – the site of the set for Edoras, the fortress city of the Rohan people in The Lord of the Rings.
- Leaving Mt Sunday we transfer back to Hakatere for our last ride of the day, following the Ashburton river back to Mt Somers.

**CYCLE DISTANCE: 42KM    MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER**

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## Day 5: Mt Somers - Christchurch

- Today we drive through the Rangitata River Valley and on to the historic Mesopotamia Station, nestled in the center of the South Island's 'Middle Earth'.
- Take in the breathtaking scenery at the headwaters of the Rangitata, with sweeping views of the Two Thumbs Range and Southern Alps in all directions.
- We visit Dr Sinclairs' grave in the Mesopotamia cemetery, which must be one of NZ's most remote and moving cemetery's. We then ride back down the river flats, with the option of the bus transfer over a hilly section adjacent to the Rangitata Gorge.
- Lunch is at the lovely Church of the Holy Innocents. We then have our final ride of the tour, adjacent to Mt Peel and through the Peel Forest Reserve to ride on to the quaint hamlet of Arundel where our Canterbury cycle trail comes to an end.
- We triumphantly load up and transfer back to Christchurch, arriving at approximately 5pm.

**CYCLE DISTANCE: 21KM    MEALS: BREAKFAST / LUNCH**

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## What's Included:

- 4 nights twin share ensuite accommodation
- 4 evening meals; 5 lunches; 4 breakfasts
- Home baking, healthy snacks, fruit & morning teas on the trail
- The services of a tour leader who provides vehicle support & information
- Cycle repair support
- All transport from/to Christchurch
- Rakaia Gorge jet boat ride
- GST

## What's Not Included:

- Wine; beer; espresso coffees
- Single accommodation supplement (\$495)
- Bike hire (\$200) or e-bike hire (\$495)